

ORIG: - State Dept. review completed

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RELEASING OFFICER

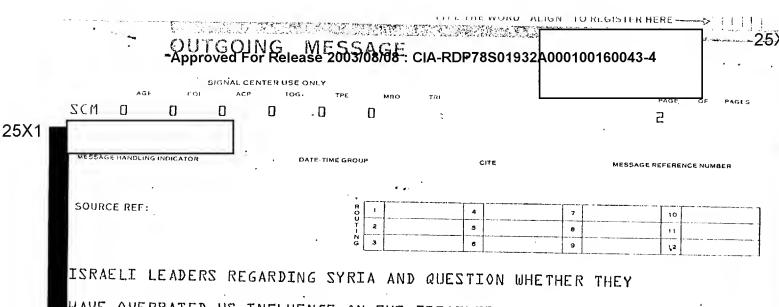
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UNC OFFICE IS BROWINITED

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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HAVE OVERRATED US INFLUENCE ON THE ISRAELIS.

SOME SAUDIS SPECULATE ON AN ISRAELI PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK IN OCTOBER, BEFORE THE ARABS HAVE SOLIDIFIED PLANS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING. AND PRIOR TO US ELECTIONS WHEN THEY SUSPECT THE ISRAELIS COULD GET AWAY WITH AN ATTACK WITHOUT RISKING US POLITICAL SUPPORT AND ARMS AID.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IS AMONG AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SAUDI OFFICIALS WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE LENGTHY DELIVERY TIME AND TERMS OF PAYMENT FOR US ARMS AID. REPORTEDLY THERE IS INCREASING TENDENCY IN JIDDA TO LOOK TOWARD EUROPE FOR ARMS SUPPLIES.

OMAR SARRAF, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS AMONG THOSE WHO FEAR AN ISRAELI PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK IN OCTOBER. HE CURRENTLY IS SEEKING OPINIONS IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS AND PLANS TO PASS ALONG HIS FINDINGS TO AMBASS-ADOR AKINS BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE UN ON TUESDAY.

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